

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A mail piece weighing scale apparatus comprising:

a scale transport assembly for transporting mail pieces seriatim;

5 a load cell assembly for measuring said mail pieces one at a time as said mail pieces are transported by said scale transport assembly; and

a channel pathway assembly for maintaining a vertical orientation of individual mail pieces on said scale transport assembly.

2. The mail piece weighing scale apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising a means for collecting weight data.

3. The mail piece weighing scale apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said transport assembly comprises a conveyor belt mechanism.

4. The mail weighing scale apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said load cell assembly comprises a plurality of load cells.

5. The mail weighing scale apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said scale transport assembly is detachably supported atop of said load cell assembly.

6. The mail weighing scale apparatus as claimed in Claim  
5 1 wherein said channel pathway assembly comprises a pair of  
sidewalls forming a channel pathway.

7. The mail weighing scale apparatus as claimed in Claim  
6 wherein at least one of said pair of sidewalls is hinged to  
provide access to said channel pathway.

8. The mail weighing scale apparatus as claimed in Claim  
5 1 further including a base module.

9. The mail weighing scale apparatus as claimed in Claim  
1 further comprising an x-y table assembly for making position  
adjustments to said apparatus.

10. A method of weighing individual mail pieces comprising  
the steps of:

mounting a scale transport assembly atop a load cell  
assembly;

feeding a series of vertically oriented mail pieces onto  
said scale transport assembly;

continuously transporting said mail pieces seriatim  
through a mail piece channel pathway assembly;

10 sensing the presence of a mail piece in said channel  
pathway assembly; and

weighing each individual mail piece while said mail piece  
is oriented in a vertical fashion and is continuously  
traveling through said channel pathway assembly.